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## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the French African Community franc (franc CFA), consisting of 100 centimes.

## General

Cameroon, located on the SW coast of Africa, is bounded on the NW by Nigeria; on the E by Chad and the Central African Republic; and on the S by the Republic of Congo, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea.

The country may be divided into four distinct physical regions, as follows:

1. The S region consists of a coastal plain covered by dense rain forests.
  2. The central region consists of the Adamawa Plateau, which is 1,370m high.
  3. The N region is a transitional area, with forests giving way to savanna country. In the far N part of this region, the savanna gradually slopes into marshland surrounding Lake Chad.
  4. The W region consists of forested mountains up to 4,090m high.
- Numerous rivers are located along the coast but are generally encumbered with rapids.

The climate is equatorial, with high temperatures and plentiful rainfall occurring during all seasons. The heaviest rain falls from March to June and from September to November.

## Government



**Flag of Cameroon**

A section of Cameroon, formerly under a French trusteeship, received independence in 1960. Another part, formerly under a British trusteeship, received independence in 1961. After a national referendum in 1972, the country became a unitary republic.

The constitution provides for a President, as head of state, and a National Assembly. The President is elected by popular

vote for a 7-year term. The 180 members of the National Assembly are elected for 5-year terms, although the President may shorten or lengthen the term. The constitution provides for the formation of an upper chamber, called the Senate, but this has not been created.

A Prime Minister is appointed by the President and acts as head of the government. The Prime Minister submits the Cabinet to the President for approval.

Since 1966, there was a sole legal political party, but the National Assembly legalized opposition parties in 1990.

The country is divided into ten provinces, each administered by a governor appointed by the President. The provinces are subdivided into 49 departments, each under a prefect.

The legal system is based on French civil law and English common law.

The capital is Yaounde.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Youth Day	February 11
Feast of the Lamb	Varies
Good Friday	Varies
Easter Monday	Varies
Labor Day	May 1
Ascension Day	May 1
National Day	May 20
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	August 15
Christmas Day	December 25

In addition, two or more local holidays are usually celebrated in each region. Autonomous provinces may celebrate certain local holidays instead of some of the general holidays.

## Industries

The main industries are the production of crude oil, hardwoods, textiles, aluminum, food, and beverages. Other industries include metals, chemicals, cement, timber, fishing, livestock raising, and tourism. Crops include cassava, sorghum, millet, maize, plantains, yams, groundnuts, bananas, palm kernels, cocoa, coffee, rubber, and cotton lint.

## Languages

The official languages are English and French; however, 24 major African dialects are also spoken.

## Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ALFA (-1). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

### World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

## U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Rue Nachtigal, Yaounde. The mailing addresses are, as follows:

1. International mail—  
P.O. Box 817  
Yaounde
2. Diplomatic pouch—  
American Embassy Yaounde  
Department of State  
Washington DC 20521-2520

### U. S. Embassy Cameroon Home Page

<http://usembassy.state.gov/yaounde>